

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1           1.       (Original) A method of producing a gas discharge panel, comprising:  
2                    an envelope forming step for forming an envelope by providing over a first plate a  
3       second plate so that the second plate faces a main surface of the first plate, on which partition  
4       walls for partitioning light emitting cells have been formed;  
5                    a sealing step for sealing the envelope with a sealant along outer edges of the first  
6       and second plates;  
7                    an exhaust step for exhausting gas from the envelope; and  
8                    a filling step for filling the envelope with a discharge gas, wherein  
9                    the exhaust step includes:  
10                   a substep for evacuating the envelope;  
11                   a substep for filling the envelope with a cleaning gas that includes as a constituent  
12       a gas that substantially causes no impurity in the discharge gas; and  
13                   a substep for re-evacuating the envelope.

1           2.       (Cancelled)

1           3.       (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 1,  
2       wherein the sealant is disposed between the first and second plates, the entire envelope is heated  
3       at a temperature that is no lower than one of a softening point and a melting point of the sealant  
4       while a pressure in the envelope is set lower than a pressure outside of the envelope, and the  
5       envelope is cooled at the sealing step.

1           4.       (Cancelled)

1           5.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 1,  
2 wherein a step for inserting a getter into a container that is linked to an internal space of the  
3 envelope is included between the sealing step and the exhaust step.

1           6.     (Cancelled)

1           7.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 3,  
2 wherein a step for inserting a getter into a container that is linked to an internal space of the  
3 envelope is included between the sealing step and the exhaust step.

1           8.     (Cancelled)

1           9.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 1,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is heated at a temperature that is no higher than one of a softening  
3 point and a melting point of the sealant at the exhaust step.

1           10.    (Cancelled)

1           11.    (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 3,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is heated at a temperature that is no higher than one of the softening  
3 point and the melting point of the sealant at the exhaust step.

1           12.    (Cancelled)

1           13.    (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 5,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is heated at a temperature that is no higher than one of a softening  
3 point and a melting point of the sealant at the exhaust step.

1           14.   (Cancelled)

1           15.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 7,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is heated at a temperature that is no higher than one of the softening  
3 point and the melting point of the sealant at the exhaust step.

1           16.   (Cancelled)

1           17.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 3,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is cooled to a temperature that is higher than room temperature and  
3 no higher than one of the softening point and the melting point of the sealant at the sealing step.

1           18.   (Cancelled)

1           19.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 11,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is cooled to a temperature that is higher than room temperature and  
3 no higher than one of the softening point and the melting point of the sealant at the sealing step.

1           20.   (Cancelled)

1           21.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 1,  
2 wherein the sealing step includes:

3               a substep for disposing the sealant between the first and second plates, and  
4 heating the entire envelope to a temperature that is no lower than one of a softening point and a  
5 melting point of the sealant while a dry gas is circulated through the envelope; and

6 a substep for heating the entire envelope at a temperature that is no lower than one  
7 of the softening point and the melting point of the sealant while a pressure in the envelope is set  
8 to be lower than a pressure outside of the envelope, and cooling the envelope.

1 22. (Cancelled)

1 23. (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 21,  
2 wherein a step for inserting a getter into a container that is linked to an internal space of the  
3 envelope is included between the sealing step and the exhaust step.

1 24. (Cancelled)

1 25. (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 21,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is heated at a temperature that is no higher than one of the softening  
3 point and the melting point of the sealant at the exhaust step.

1 26. (Cancelled)

1 27. (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 23,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is heated at a temperature that is no higher than one of the softening  
3 point and the melting point of the sealant at the exhaust step.

1 28. (Cancelled)

1 29. (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 21,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is cooled to a temperature that is higher than a room temperature and  
3 no higher than one of the softening point and the melting point of the sealant at the sealing step.

1           30.   (Cancelled)

1           31.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 25,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is cooled to a temperature that is higher than a room temperature and  
3 no higher than one of the softening point and the melting point of the sealant at the sealing step.

1           32.   (Cancelled)

1           33.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 1,  
2 wherein the sealant is disposed between the first and second plates, sealed edges of the first and  
3 second plates are heated at a temperature that is no lower than one of a softening point and a  
4 melting point of the sealant while a pressure in the envelope is set lower than a pressure outside  
5 of the envelope, and the envelope is cooled at the sealing step.

1           34.   (Cancelled)

1           35.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 33,  
2 wherein a step for inserting a getter into a container that is linked to an internal space of the  
3 envelope is included between the sealing step and the exhaust step.

1           36.   (Cancelled)

1           37.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 33,  
2 wherein the entire envelope is heated at a temperature that is no higher than one of the softening  
3 point and the melting point of the sealant at the exhaust step.

1           38.   (Cancelled)

1           39.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 35,  
2     wherein the entire envelope is heated at a temperature that is no higher than one of the softening  
3     point and the melting point of the sealant at the exhaust step.

1           40.     (Cancelled)

1           41.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 1,  
2     wherein the cleaning gas is the discharge gas.

1           42.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 41,  
2     wherein the discharge gas is a noble gas.

1           43.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 42,  
2     wherein the noble gas includes at least one of helium, neon, argon, and xenon.

1           44.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 1,  
2     wherein the light emitting cells are formed by positioning a first group of parallel electrodes on  
3     the first plate orthogonally to a second group of parallel electrodes on the second plate with a  
4     distance between the first and second electrode groups.

1           45.     (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 41,  
2     wherein the light emitting cells are formed by positioning a first group of parallel electrodes on  
3     the first plate orthogonally to a second group of parallel electrodes on the second plate with a  
4     distance between the first and second electrode groups.

1           46.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 42,  
2   wherein the light emitting cells are formed by intersecting a first group of electrodes that have  
3   been disposed on the first plate in parallel and a second group of electrodes that have been  
4   disposed on the second plate in parallel with a distance between the first and second groups.

1           47.   (Original) The gas discharge panel producing method according to Claim 43,  
2   wherein the light emitting cells are formed by intersecting a first group of electrodes that have  
3   been disposed on the first plate in parallel and a second group of electrodes that have been  
4   disposed on the second plate in parallel with a distance between the first and second groups.

1           48.   (Cancelled)

1           49.   (Cancelled)